

PAST CONTINUOUS & SIMPLE



AFFIRMATIVE

I was working I worked
You were working He worked
He was working They worked



NEGATIVE

I was not working I didn't work
You weren't working He didn't work
He wasn't working They didn't work



INTERROGATIVE

Was I working? Did I work?
Were you working? Did he work?
Was he working? Did they work?

Past Continuous Past Simple

The **past continuous** describes an **unfinished** action that is **in progress**.

The little ducklings **were** peacefully **swimming** in the pond,



The **past simple** **interrupts** the other action.

a heron **saw** them, **caught** them and **ate** one of them.

1. Consider the following examples of a past action interrupted by another past action.

1. Bob **broke** his leg while he **was climbing** a ladder to pick an apple.
2. I **was watching** television when the phone **rang**.
3. We **were walking** along the road when a noisy airplane **flew over**.
4. When the police **arrested** the robber he **was holding** a bottle of whisky.
5. My brother **saw** a car accident while he **was thumbing** a lift to the railway station.
6. We **met** Tom at the airport while we **were waiting** for our plane for New York.

2. Now complete the sentences below. Remember that we use the **past continuous** to talk about an action that was **happening** in the past and the **past simple** for the action that **interrupts** the action in progress. Match the sentences with the pictures.

1. (Peter/find) that treasure when he (dig) a hole to plant a tree?
2. (David / fall) from a ladder while he (clean) a window ?
3. A bee (sting) the beekeeper while he (collect) honey from his hives.
4. A cute little mouse (run) back to its shelter when a huge cat (spot) it and (catch) it.
5. Daddy (mow) the lawn when the engine (make) a strange noise and (stop).
6. Garry (sleep) so fast that he (not / hear) when the thieves (break) into his house.
7. I (walk) my dog when suddenly I (hear) footsteps behind me.
8. John (not/win) the last competition, he (fall) from his horse while he (participate).
9. Miles (bike) through the countryside when his tires (go) flat.
10. No, the tree (not / collapse) when Bob (cut) it down.
11. Pete (pick) apples in his orchard when the ladder (slip) away and he (fall) to the ground.
12. The baker (put) the bread in his oven when he suddenly (burn) one of his fingers.
13. The farmer (feed) his poultry when a chicken (run) ran away and (disappear).
14. The farmer (shoot) at a flock of birds that (calmly / overfly) his fields.
15. The mouse (break) one of its teeth when it (eat) a piece of cheese.
16. The vet (treat) the dog when the light (go) off.
17. The worm (eat) an apple when a bird (see) it and (swallow) it.
18. They (walk) through a forest when lightning (strike) a nearby tree.

